

REMARKS

The Examiner's comments have been diligently studied. Consideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the amendment above and the remarks below is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4, 7-8 and 11-19 have been amended, each of said claims being readable on the elected species. No claims have been canceled. No new claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1-45 are pending. Of these claims, claims 20-45 have been "withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Group and Species." Accordingly, claims 1-19 are under active consideration.

In the Office action dated 2-25-05, the Examiner requested the election of one of the following Groups under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-19 and 36-43, drawn to a fastener, classified in class 24, subclass 16PB.
- II. Claims 20-22, drawn to method of manufacturing one or more fasteners, classified in class 264, subclass 297.6.
- III. Claims 23 and 24, drawn to method of manufacturing one or more fasteners, classified in class 264, subclass 297.6.
- IV. Claims 25-27, drawn to a system for manufacturing one or more fasteners, classified in class 425, subclass 223.
- V. Claims 28, drawn to an apparatus for manufacturing one or more fasteners, classified in class 425, subclass 223.
- VI. Claims 29-35, drawn to method of manufacturing one or more fasteners, classified in class 264, subclass 297.6.

VII. Claims 44 and 45, drawn to method of manufacturing one or more fasteners, classified in class 264, subclass 297.6.

In response thereto, applicant hereby elects Group I with traverse.

Furthermore, in the Office action dated 2-25-05, the Examiner requested the election of one of the following species:

Species I Figures 1-4 and 9-11, claims 1-19.

Species II Figures 12 and 13, claims 41-43.

Species III Figure 14, claims 36-40

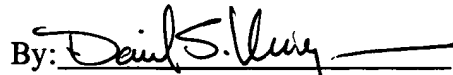
In response thereto, applicant hereby elects Species I with traverse. Applicant wishes to note to the Examiner that claims 1-19, as presently constituted, are readable on the elected species.

Allowance of the application with claims 1-19 is earnestly solicited.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper that are not accounted for, the Examiner is authorized to charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 11-1755. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 that is not accounted for already, such an extension of time is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 3-21-05.


Daniel S. Kriegsman